

Dinos Constantinides

Parodos - The Battle of Thebes

from Antigone

LRC 242



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DINOS CONSTANTINIDES: THE BATTLE OF THEBES (PARODOS from
ANTIGONE)

Baton Rouge, April 1985

ANTIGONE by SOPHOCLES

English versions by

Dudley Fitts and

Robert Fitzgerald

PÁRODOS

CHORUS:

Now the long blade of the sun, lying
Level east to west, touches with glory
Thebes of the Seven Gates, Open, unlidded
Eye of golden day! O marching light
Across the eddy and rush of Dirce's stream,
Striking the white shields of the enemy
Thrown headlong backward from the blaze of
morning

CHORAGOS:

Polyneicês their commander
Roused with windy phrases,
He the wild eagle screaming
Insults above our land,
His wings their shields of snow,
His crest their marshaled helms.

CHORUS:

Against our seven gates in a yawning ring
The famished spears came onward in the night;
But before his laws were sated with our blood,
Or pinefire took the garland of our towers,
He was thrown back; and as he turned, great
Thebes—
No tender victim for his noisy power—
Rose like a dragon behind him shouting war.

CHORAGOS:

For God hates utterly
The bray of bragging tongues;
And when he beheld their smiling,
Their swagger of golden helms,
The frown his thunder blasted
The first man from our walls.

CHORUS:

We heard his shout of triumph high in the air
Turn to a scream; far out in a flaming arc
He fell with his windy torch, and the earth struck
him.
And others storming in fury no less than his
Found shock of death in the dusty joy of battle.

CHORAGOS:

Seven captains at seven gates
Yielded their clanging arms to the god
That bends the battle-line and breaks it.
These two only, brothers in blood,
Face to face in matchless rage,
Mirroring each the other's death,
Clashed in long combat.

CHORUS:

But now in the beautiful morning of victory
Let Thebes of the many chariots sing for joy!
With hearts for dancing we'll take leave of war:
Our temples shall be sweet with hymns of praise
And the long night shall echo with our chorus.

Instrumentation:

Flute, two Oboes, Bassoon, two Trumpets in C
Percussion and Strings

Musical score for Percussion section. The score is written on two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Timpani' and contains a sequence of notes: a half note G2, a half note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, a quarter note A1, a quarter note G1, and a quarter note F1. The bottom staff is labeled 'Percussion' and contains five measures of rhythmic notation: 'Temple Blocks' (a quarter note), 'Wood Blocks' (a quarter note), 'Snare Drum' (a quarter note), 'Triangle' (a quarter note), and 'Cowbell' (a quarter note).

Soprano Soloist and mixed chorus (SATB)

Explanation of Symbols

Musical staff with a note on the first line and a sharp symbol above it, labeled 'screaming'.

Musical staff with a note on the first line and a sharp symbol above it, labeled 'highest possible pitch'.

Musical staff with a slash and a percent sign symbol, labeled 'repetition of a bar'.

Musical staff with a horizontal line and an arrow pointing right, labeled 'continue the sound'.

Musical staff with a note on the first line and a cross symbol above it, labeled 'spoken (vocal part)'.

c. l. col legno